

As a native of Sioux Falls, Mayor Munson married and raised his children in the city he loves, pursued a successful business career, and ultimately rose to the position of mayor. He has provided critical, consistent, and caring leadership to the residents of Sioux Falls during his terms in office.

Over the past decade, Sioux Falls has witnessed tremendous residential housing growth and business development. During Mayor Munson's tenure, an impressive sum of over 16,000 jobs have been added in the city. Tax valuation in the city has grown from \$125 million in 2002 to \$229 million today.

Sioux Falls continues to be a great place to work, live, and raise a family, and this has been reflected in numerous top national rankings for quality of life and job development. Most recently, Sioux Falls was named one of the top five cities in the Nation for job prospects by the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey. For the past 8 years, *Forbes* magazine has ranked Sioux Falls first out of 200 small metropolitan areas as the best places for businesses and careers. From adding 490 acres of parkland throughout Sioux Falls to increasing public safety by adding 50 police officers to the streets, from development of 23,000 acres on the east side of the thriving community to enhancing and improving neighborhoods, Mayor Munson has exhibited a progressive attitude to developing and maintaining Sioux Falls as one of the best cities in our Nation. A recent survey shows that 92 percent of Sioux Falls citizens say their community is a good or excellent place to live. Few city officials can tout such an extraordinary level of satisfaction.

I have enjoyed my working relationship and friendship with Mayor Munson over many years. I have appreciated his can-do attitude, his vision for the future of Sioux Falls, and his team-oriented approach to resolving issues. Most of all, I have enjoyed collaborating with him on several large-scale projects that will continue to enhance the quality of life in Sioux Falls for decades. For example, the roadway from "Phillips to the Falls" has been completed. Together, we ensured the future of the Orpheum Theater. We have long been partners to bring much needed water to Sioux Falls with the construction of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System, which will meet the infrastructure needs for increased growth in the Sioux Falls area far into the future.

Mayor Munson has provided a lasting legacy of leadership that will benefit the citizens of Sioux Falls for generations to come. His dedication and commitment to the people of Sioux Falls is unmatched, and I commend his distinguished service as mayor. Another of his achievements, the illumination at Christmastime of the falls for which the city is named, will serve as an annual reminder of his leadership. As Mayor Munson concludes his final tenure, I thank him for his service, and I

wish him all the best in his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleagues for the time this morning to speak about a very special flight that just took place. The Louisiana HonorAir flight that came into Washington on Saturday, April 10 included a group of 82 World War II veterans from Louisiana. These veterans visited the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable servicemembers.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, sponsored this latest trip—its 21st flight—to the Nation's Capital. The organization honors surviving Louisiana World War II veterans by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. On this trip, the veterans visited the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials. They traveled to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs, but was also a conflict rife with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American servicemembers were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. The years 1941 to 1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there are roughly 30,000 living WWII veterans, and each one has a heroic tale of achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. The oldest in this HonorAir group was born in 1918. Some began their service as early as 1940, before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and some members of this group served as late as 1972. This HonorAir group served in various branches of the military: 31 in the U.S. Army, 21 in the Navy, 16 in the Air Force, 7 in the Marine Corps, 2 in the Coast Guard, 2 in the Merchant Marines and 1 was a Women's Army Corps Member, WAC.

Our heroes trekked the world for their country. They served across the globe, participating in major invasions such as those at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Guadalcanal, Leyte, the Philippines, and southern France.

One was a prisoner of war in Germany, while others fought in the historic Battle of the Bulge or stormed the beaches at Normandy.

Many of these veterans have been decorated with multiple Purple Hearts, Bronze Star Medals, Air Medals and Navy Crosses.

These men and women, who have given so much for our country, truly

represent our greatest generation. I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 82 veterans, all Louisiana heroes, that we welcomed to Washington on April 10 and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

RECOGNIZING SEA BAGS, INC.

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I honor a Maine small business that has not only captured Maine history and tradition through their unique craft, but has also aimed to selflessly support various organizations and charities throughout the State of Maine for over a decade. Sea Bags, Inc., coowned by Maine natives Hannah Kubiak and Beth Shissler, is based in Maine's largest city, Portland, and has been using recycled sails to create inventive, environmentally friendly purses and tote bags that are "sailed around the world" and "recycled in Maine."

Sea Bags, Inc. was founded in 1999 on the principle that "recycling is not just a fad, but a responsibility." And while they own a globally successful business, Hannah Kubiak and Beth Shissler have always emphasized making a positive and lasting impact locally. Ms. Kubiak, who grew up sailing in the famed seaside town of Kennebunkport, was inspired by her father, who would often brainstorm ways to reuse old sails. Additionally, Ms. Shissler travelled the world in her work for several large companies before being drawn home to put her business experience to use at Sea Bags. Their work has been featured in a variety of publications, including *Vanity Fair*; the *New York Times*; *Vogue*; and *O, the Oprah Magazine*.

Believing that everyone should have a second chance, Sea Bags has previously partnered with the Maine Department of Correction's Industries Program to engage inmates at the Maine Correctional Institute for Women in helping make the bags and teaching them job skills such as sewing. This 2-year collaboration helped the company keep up with the increased demand in recent years. In 2005, Sea Bags was selling roughly 60 items per year, and it now sells over 2,000 each month. In addition to its line of regular, everyday tote bags—which are water resistant and durable—the company also offers creative bath mats, coasters, and shaving kits. Sea Bags has also created a limited-edition line of "Cure Bags" to "celebrate a cure" for breast cancer. Fifty percent of all of the proceeds from Cure Bags goes to the Maine Cancer Foundation for breast cancer support and awareness programs.

When it comes to supporting Maine's timeless tradition of sailing, Sea Bags donates to the Sail Maine Scholarship Fund with the aim of helping underprivileged children learn how to sail. Sea Bags has teamed up with other local nautical organizations, including the Islesboro Yacht Club Youth Sailing Program, the Compass Project, and the

Maine Maritime Academy, to sustain the historic art of sailing. Additionally, for the 2008 Olympics, Sea Bags created a line of totes to support the quest of New England sailors Andy Horton and Brad Nichol, pledging \$40,000 to help send the athletes to Beijing.

Hannah Kubiak and Beth Shissler have offered a vivid example of the difference a small business can make in a community locally, and globally, through a noble devotion to social responsibility. It is evident that through their distinctive dedication to promoting recycling and assisting charities, they have started a trend in responsible entrepreneurship that other small companies will surely emulate. I sincerely thank Ms. Kubiak and Ms. Shissler and everyone at Sea Bags, Inc. for their continued service to the State of Maine, and offer my best wishes for their future success.●

TRIBUTE TO ASHLEY VAN DEN TOP

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Ashley Van Den Top, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Ashley is a graduate of Western Christian High School in Rock Valley, IA. Currently she is attending National American University, where she is majoring in paralegal studies. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ashley for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING DAKOTA BUSINESS FINANCE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Dakota BUSINESS Finance, a company in South Dakota being awarded as the Certified Development Company of the year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Dakota BUSINESS Finance will be presented with this award as part of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Week in Washington, DC, on May 23–25.

Since becoming a certified development company, Dakota BUSINESS Finance has become one of the fastest growing certified development companies in the Nation. Dakota BUSINESS Finance has created nearly 500 jobs after processing more than \$45 million in approved SBA 504 loan applications to more than 50 applicants. The 504 loan program provides a number of financing options for businesses that are looking to procure land or other types of fixed assets.

Dakota BUSINESS Finance has also been recognized with the Asset Builder Award for Federal Fiscal Year 2009 by

the South Dakota Small Business Administration's District Office. This award is for the largest approved loan volume for a certified development company in South Dakota in 2009. Dakota BUSINESS Finance has come a long way, and I look forward to their continued success.

It is organizations such as Dakota BUSINESS Finance that keep South Dakota small businesses growing and flourishing. So it gives me great pleasure to commemorate Dakota BUSINESS Finance on this special occasion and wish them continued successes in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING SIOUX FALLS NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the Sioux Falls National Weather Service, a public weather informer that has been serving the U.S. since 1870.

Volunteers began making weather observations in the Sioux Falls area in 1890 creating the basis for the Sioux Falls station. From its first local forecast to the public in 1955 to the harsh weather South Dakota experienced this past winter, the station has kept State residents apprised of current conditions.

There is a strong need for the weather service to effectively communicate information to the public regarding storms, floods, wildfires, tornados, hail, and blizzards. The Sioux Falls National Weather Service provides these advisories for the area to keep families safe and informed.

The Sioux Falls National Weather Service played a vital role in helping the news media inform South Dakotans about the snow storms that hit South Dakota last winter. I would like to offer my appreciation to the staff at the Sioux Falls Weather Forecast Office for their devotion to residents during times of critical need.●

TRIBUTE TO HENRY SHELTON

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a Rhode Islander who has devoted his life to improving the lot of others. For decades now, the name Henry Shelton has rung out as a clarion for social justice and equality in our Ocean State. He is and has always been a voice for the little guy—the homeless veteran, the hungry child, or the underpaid laborer.

Most folks in Rhode Island know Henry as the founder and coordinator of the George Wiley Center, a nonprofit antipoverty organization based in Pawtucket. But before that, Henry was a Catholic priest for 16 years, during which he began organizing needy Rhode Islanders in Providence to elect leaders responsive to their needs. In 1973 he left the church to marry his beloved Carol, a former nun who shared his passion for advocacy.

Ever since then, Henry has been “raising hell,” as he might say, and

fighting for Rhode Island's overlooked and underpaid. In 1974 he started the Coalition for Consumer Justice and in 1981 founded the George Wiley Center. Over the years Henry has organized sit-ins, battled budget cuts, fasted to get clothes for children on welfare, advocated to keep electricity rates down for low income residents, and even been arrested for disorderly conduct—a fact which may amuse those who know Henry as a peaceful and gentle man.

And last year, Henry fought through his toughest battle yet. Just before the New Year, Henry suffered a serious stroke which landed him in the hospital. Anyone with a friend or family member who has experienced a stroke knows that the recovery is often a slow and painful process, but none of this stopped Henry. In fact, the headline in the Providence Journal following his hospitalization read: “Advocate for the poor, Henry Shelton, suffers stroke—but continue work from hospital.” The paper went on to report that Henry organized a State house rally from his hospital bed.

This is the Henry I know, and who we in Rhode Island have known and loved for many years. This Monday in Rhode Island, the Fund for Community Progress will present Henry with its Profile in Courage Award, which the organization describes as a “distinctive honor for those who have dedicated their lives to creating positive change in the community.” Henry Shelton has generated enough positive change in his life to satisfy that requirement many times over.

And so today, Mr. President, I would like to thank Henry Shelton for a lifetime of selflessness and courage, and for always being a voice for those who needed one most.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5147. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and